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**Contact: Jane Haseldine  
(302) 672-5104  
(302) 632-6271 cell  
Bert Scoglietti  
(302) 739-4206  
(302) 233-2196 cell**

## **Japanese Delegation Meets with Governor Minner, State and Business Leaders to Promote Cultural and Business Opportunities**

*-Miyagi and Delaware Celebrate 10 Year Anniversary of Sister State Partnership-*

Dover – Governor Ruth Ann Minner will meet Monday with representatives from Miyagi Japan, including Miyagi Governor Yoshihiro Murai, to celebrate the success of their 10 year Sister State partnership and to continue to promote cultural and business opportunities between both entities.

Highlights of the visit will include the continued promotion of the school exchange program and meetings with business leaders including representatives from the World Trade Center Delaware, the Central Delaware Economic Development Council and the Delaware Technology Park to identify future export/import opportunities for both.

“Delaware and Miyagi have enjoyed their Sister State partnership for the past decade,” Gov. Minner said. “The results of this partnership include many successful cultural and business ventures such as our high school exchange program and increased export opportunities over the past several years. Japan remains an important friend and business partner for Delaware.”

Japan is Delaware's fourth largest trading partner, with Delaware companies exporting approximately \$209 million in goods and services to Japan in 2006, which represented a 24 percent increase compared to 2005.

“I am pleased that our International Trade office once again facilitated such an important meeting between the State of Delaware and our Sister State of Miyagi, Japan,” said Jennifer Davis, Director of the Office of Management and Budget. “From high school students who decide to study abroad to our companies that hope to expand their exports overseas, this ongoing partnership continues to provide a positive impact for our state.”

The Japanese delegation will be in Dover on Monday and in New Castle County on Tuesday.